

**TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM**

---

**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** former St Mark's Anglican Church  
**ADDRESS** 23 High Street, Beaconsfield/Otipua, Pareora West  
**PHOTOGRAPH**



**District Plan Item No.** New      **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** n / a

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Lot 1 DP 19667

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2486040200

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1892-93

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** M de H Duval, architect; Thomas Henderson,  
contractor

**STYLE** Gothic Revival

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Single-storey building with irregular rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Battlemented entrance tower at north-west corner, gabled vestry on south side of eastern sanctuary. Lancet arched door and window openings; buttresses and louvred bell tower. Constructional polychromy with Oamaru stone detailing. Windows set with coloured glass; sexfoil window in end wall of sanctuary. Crockets atop gable ends and flag pole set upon tower. Bluestone wall with wrought iron entrance gates.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Bluestone & Oamaru stone, timber and slate.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Bell tower completed using stone from Timaru Post Office (1960).

**SETTING**

The former church stands on an elevated site at the western terminus of High Street. It overlooks the intersection with Hill Street, which is a paper road to the west of High Street. The church's former vicarage is on the neighbouring property, which is bounded to the south by Beaconsfield Road. The extent of setting is the land parcel on which the church is located.

## **HISTORY**

The foundation stone of St Mark's Anglican Church was laid by Bishop Julius of Christchurch on 8 December 1892. The church was consecrated on 17 December 1893; at that time it was noted that the tower would be completed at a later date (1960). The settlement of Beaconsfield/Otipua had been subdivided from part of GG Russell's Otipua Estate in 1878 (DP 291), at which time a church reserve was set aside. George Gray Russell was born in Scotland in 1828 and was a London merchant before he emigrated to New Zealand in 1864. He was a merchant in Dunedin and Timaru until 1878 and also had large landholdings in Timaru district. Russell maintained twin residences at Otipua and Glenfalloch, Dunedin. A vicarage adjacent to St Mark's was built in 1914. The church was part of a number of parishes over the years, including the Beaconsfield and Kingsdown Parish (est. 1902), Otipua Parish (1913-37) and the Kensington-Otipua Parish. Although the area is now part of the Highfield-Kensington-Otipua Parish, the church was sold, in an 'as is where is' state, in 2016.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former St Mark's Anglican Church has historical significance for its association with the farm settlement of Beaconsfield/Otipua and the efforts of the Anglican diocese to provide places of worship throughout Timaru district.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former St Mark's Anglican Church has cultural and spiritual value as a former church.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The former St Mark's Anglican Church has architectural significance as the work of Maurice de Harven Duval, a French or Belgian architect who practised in Timaru between c.1877 and 1895. Duval also designed St Mary's Anglican Church at Geraldine (1882-83, heritage item # 105), undertook a considerable amount of work for the Catholic church in Canterbury, including St Mary's Church at Pleasant Point (1889), was architect to the South Canterbury Board of Education, and also designed residential and commercial buildings. Duval's 'Elloughton Grange', the former Grant residence at Timaru (heritage item # 5), is contemporary with St Mark's church.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The former St Mark's Anglican Church has technological and craftsmanship significance for its stone construction and ornamental detailing. Thomas Henderson (c.1855-93) was a Timaru contractor who also built bridges in the district. He erected the additions to the Royal Hotel in Timaru in 1890 (heritage item # 25).

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former St Mark's Anglican Church has contextual significance as a local historic feature which provides evidence of the extent of the Beaconsfield/Otipua community in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and in relation to the former vicarage on the neighbouring property. The Otipua/Beaconsfield War Memorial (1921) is to the east of the church, on the corner formed by the intersection of Beaconsfield Road and Beaconsfield Flat Road, and the modest Otipua Hall is further east of the memorial on Beaconsfield Road. The church is the most substantial of the structures that survive from the early days of the village settlement.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the church pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the structure's construction and early use.

## SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

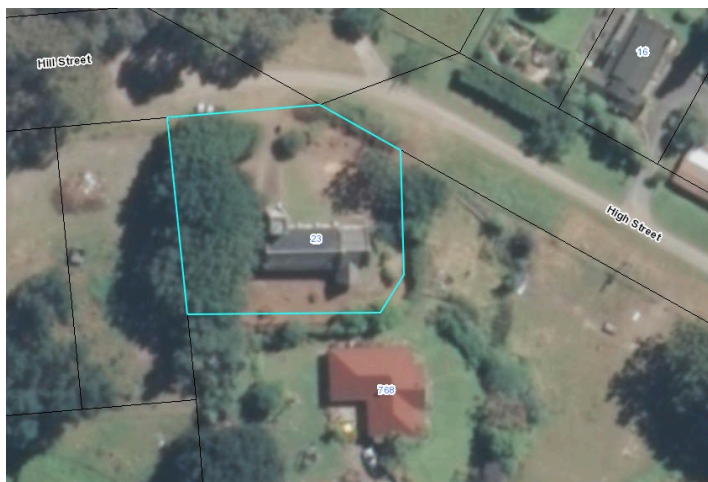
The former St Mark's Anglican Church has overall heritage significance to Beaconsfield/Otipua and Timaru district as a whole. The church has historical significance for its association with the development of the Beaconsfield farm settlement and cultural and spiritual value as a former place of worship. The former St Mark's Anglican Church has architectural significance as the work of noted Timaru architect Maurice de Harven Duval and technical and craftsmanship significance for its stone construction by Timaru builder Thomas Henderson. The former St Mark's Anglican Church has contextual significance as a historic feature within the Beaconsfield/Otipua settlement and its site has potential archaeological significance in view of the church's late-19<sup>th</sup> century date of construction.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

**B**

## REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 25 July 1892, p. 2; 7 December 1892, p. 1; 30 May 1893, p. 1; 10 July 1893, p. 2; 14 August 1893, p. 2; 22 December 1893, p. 2; 20 February 2007 (available online).
- *South Canterbury Times* 8 December 1892, p. 2; 9 December 1892, p. 2; 19 December 1893, p. 3; 13 February 1894, p. 3.
- *Lyttelton Times* 15 August 1893, p. 4.
- *Star* 21 October 1891, p. 4; 18 August 1893, p. 3.
- *Press* 12 June 1913, p. 5; 24 April 1914, p. 5.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- S Brosnahan *Thinking about Heaven – a history of Sacred Heart parish, Timaru* Timaru, 2011.



Extent of setting, 23 High Street, Otipua.